

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 18237

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG EG
SUBJECT: BELGRADE NAM MEETING

1. DIRECTOR MFA LEGAL DEPARTMENT NABIL ELARABY, WHO WAS MEMBER OF GOE DEL TO BELGRADE, TOLD EMBOFFS AUGUST 1 THAT MEETING IN BELGRADE OF ALL ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS ATTENDING CONFERENCE, FOR FIRST TIME SINCE SADAT'S NOVEMBER PEACE INITIATIVE, WAS ONE OF MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE. ELARABY SAID ARAB LEAGUE ASSISTANT SEC GEN MOHAMED RIAD HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY INFLUENTIAL IN BRINGING IT ABOUT (OTHER MEMBER OF DEL, AMRE MOUSSA, SAID GOE HAD TAKEN INITIATIVE). NEITHER GOE NOR "REJECTIONISTS" HAD CHANGED THEIR POSITIONS, BUT ALL HAD BEEN PERSUADED TO MEET IN ORDER TO PRESENT UNITED ARAB POSITION IN THIS IMPORTANT FORUM. REJECTIONISTS HAD STIPULATED, HOWEVER, THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO BOYCOTT MEETINGS OF THE ARAB LEAGUE IN CAIRO, BUT ARAB REPS ELSEWHERE WOULD CONTINUE TO MEET, AS HAS BEEN CASE AT UN. ELARABY SAID MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS ALTHOUGH EGYPT RESERVED ITS POSITION ON SEVERAL ASPECTS OF IT. HE DID NOT ATTACH UNDUE IMPORTANCE TO THE
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NAC RESOLUTION AND FELT CERTAIN IT WOULD UNDERGO CHANGES BEFORE BEING INCORPORATED IN ME RES AT UNGA. IN PARTICULAR, HE THOUGHT THERE WOULD NOT BE A CONCERTED ARAB MOVE TO EXCLUDE ISRAEL FROM UN, DESPITE RESOLUTION'S CALL FOR CONSIDERATION OF EXCLUSION IF (REPEAT IF) ISRAELI POLICY DID NOT CHANGE.

2. SECOND MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENT, IN ELARABY'S OPINION, WAS CRITICISM OF CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA AND THE QUESTIONING OF WHETHER OR NOT TO POSTPONE HAVANA NAC SUMMIT IN SEPTEMBER 1979. BOUTROS GHALI'S CALL FOR POSTPONEMENT WAS MADE TO REGISTER EGYPT'S OPPOSITION TO CUBAN ACTIVITIES, BUT WAS NOT PRESENTED IN FORM OF A RESOLUTION SINCE EVERYONE RECOGNIZED FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE COULD NOT CHANGE SUMMIT DECISION. EGYPT HOPED THAT AIRING OF SUBJECT WOULD SERVE AS EFFECTIVE WARNING TO CUBA.

3. ON AUGUST 2 MFA DIRECTOR INT'L ORGS DEPT AMRE MOUSSA TOLD EMBOFFS THAT BELGRADE ME RES WAS MODELED AFTER HAVANA. EGYPT HAD FOUGHT SUCCESSFULLY TO OMIT "DEFEATIST" SOLUTIONS AND AT LEAST ONE ADVERSE REFERENCE TO U.S. IT HAD LOST IN ATTEMPTING TO GET CONFERENCE NOT TO MENTION ZIONISM/RACISM AS POLITICALLY CONTERPRODUCTIVE. MOUSSA SAID THAT, MUCH TO HIS SURPRISE, ONLY ARAB SUPPORTER OF GOE POINT OF VIEW WAS IRAQ. EILTS

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